Environmentalists on a 'moral highground'

Anonymous . Anonymous.

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ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

S. McNeil (War of Numbers Plays Itself Out, Nov. 20 Capital News or www.kelownacapnews.com click Letters) seeks to rebut the argument put forward by Peter Neville in an earlier Capital News (Forum Wasn't Ready for any Dissent, Nov. 15 or www.kelownacapnews.com click Letters), but then, having churned out dozens of facts about historical CO2 levels, scores a spectacular own goal by stating that "meaningful debate is long over."
Real scientists are still finding further information. For example, the University of Bristol has conducted research showing that despite the rise in CO2 emissions over the last 160 years, the level of CO2 in the atmosphere has remained steady at the same level, indicating that the planet can still store large amounts of CO2 in the oceans and forests.

FULL TEXT

To the editor:
S. McNeil (War of Numbers Plays Itself Out, Nov. 20 Capital News or www.kelownacapnews.com click Letters) seeks to rebut the argument put forward by Peter Neville in an earlier Capital News (Forum Wasn't Ready for any Dissent, Nov. 15 or www.kelownacapnews.com click Letters), but then, having churned out dozens of facts about historical CO2 levels, scores a spectacular own goal by stating that "meaningful debate is long over."
This was exactly the point that Peter Neville made: It is alright for the worthy Ms. Reid (and no doubt S. McNeil) to practise their brand of environmentalism, but it is not acceptable to become environmental fascists and dictate to the rest of us what we should or should not be doing.
The problem with environmentalists is they believe they have seized the moral high ground by talking about saving the planet, and preserving the earth for our children and grandchildren, which suggests in some way that if you don't agree with them you hate the planet and your children. They would have us spend every last dime in an attempt to achieve this and have succeeded in persuading most governments to go along with their apocalyptic vision.
Unfortunately for them the case for climate change as a result of human intervention is far from closed.
Environmentalist is a title that requires no formal qualification and no scientific knowledge, it simply requires good intentions.
However, real scientists are still finding further information. For example, the University of Bristol has conducted research showing that despite the rise in CO2 emissions over the last 160 years, the level of CO2 in the atmosphere has remained steady at the same level, indicating that the planet can still store large amounts of CO2 in the oceans and forests.
A separate study by the VU university in Amsterdam found that the emissions caused by deforestation are almost half what had originally been calculated.
So the debate is far from over, in fact what we need is considerably more debate before we rush to make any lifestyle changes. For the population in B.C., which represents less than .01 of a pe rcent of the world's population, any gestures, such as those made by Ms. Reid, are futile and simply designed to make the donor feel good about themselves.
The reality is that CO2 emissions are not the problem, they are simply a symptom of the problem.
The problem is that the earth's population is almost seven billion, and is projected to be nearly 10 billion by 2050. Too many people chasing too few resources. The only country that has made any effort to curb population growth is China, which has clearly failed in this respect. I doubt whether any other country in the world would have the guts to suggest that its people should stop breeding, for it is the inalienable right of every human.
The problem can only be solved by a nuclear war or some massive natural disaster or by disease, take your pick. The only

certain thing is that it is out of our control.

Peter Emery,

Kelowna

DETAILS

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